

CRIME CONTINUES TO DROP IN LONG BEACH

Five years of crime reduction since 2002
Violent Crime at Lowest Level Since Early '70s



The City of Long Beach continued to realize its goal of becoming California's safest large city as the overall crime rate declined 5.6% in 2008, marking the 5th year of crime reduction since 2002.



In 2008, Part 1 Violent Crime decreased 8% as compared to 2007, and is at the lowest level since the early 1970's. A total of 6.4 violent crimes per 1,000 residents were reported in 2008, compared to a high of 21.1 per 1,000 residents in 1990. This category includes crimes such as homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Ongoing gang enforcement efforts contributed to the extraordinary reduction seen in gang-related violence, with gang murders down 36% and gang-related shootings declining 16.6% as compared to 2007. Furthermore, the number of aggravated assaults decreased 13.4%.

"These statistics again demonstrate the tremendous commitment from every part of our community to reducing crime," said Mayor Bob Foster. "The Long Beach Police Department deserves a great deal of credit for continuing to reduce crime despite an increasingly challenging economic environment."

In the Part 1 Property Crime categories, the number of auto burglaries declined by 10.5% in 2008, and is at their lowest level since 1990, when they were extracted from the larceny category for the first time. The number of auto thefts increased by 0.3% in 2008, and are at the second-lowest level since data was first collected in 1970.

Many of the crimes reported in 2008 were crimes of opportunity and could have been prevented by taking proactive measures. Approximately half of the residential burglaries were the result of open or unlocked windows and sliding glass doors. Part II crimes, such as prostitution and narcotics offenses, experienced an overall decrease of 10.3% in 2008 when compared to 2007.

"We are proud to deliver another year of crime reduction as a result of the dedication and innovation of our employees, and the ability to work hand-in-hand with other City Departments," Police Chief Anthony Batts said. "We value our partnerships with the Departments of Community Development and Development Services that have helped us eliminate many of the chronic problem locations impacting our community."

The City of Long Beach remains committed to its ongoing efforts to reduce crime and maintain the quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors. The Police Department encourages residents to join the Neighborhood Watch program, and follow the simple, effective, crime prevention tips available at www.longbeach.gov/police/crime_prevention.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE YEAR-END STATISTICS FOR 2008

Part I crimes include the following crimes reported to the State Bureau of Criminal Statistics:

<u>TYPE OF CRIME</u>	<u>Year End 2007</u>	<u>Year End 2008</u>	<u>% of Change</u>
<u>PART I CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS</u>			
MURDER	39	40	2.6%
MANSLAUGHTER	0	0	0.0%
FORCIBLE RAPE	138	120	-13.0%
ROBBERY	1,506	1,484	-1.5%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	1,741	1,507	-13.4%
<i>Total Part I Violent</i>	<i>3,424</i>	<i>3,151</i>	<i>-8.0%</i>
<u>PART I CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY</u>			
RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY	1,767	1,859	5.2%
GARAGE BURGLARY	278	209	-24.8%
COMMERCIAL BURGLARY	860	1,012	17.7%
AUTO BURGLARY	3,029	2,712	-10.5%
GRAND THEFT	1,002	981	-2.1%
PETTY THEFT OVER \$50	997	782	-21.6%
PETTY THEFT UNDER \$50	1,908	2,210	15.8%
BIKE THEFT	279	353	26.5%
AUTO THEFT	2,860	2,870	0.3%
ARSON	109	107	-1.8%
<i>Total Part I Property</i>	<i>13,088</i>	<i>13,095</i>	<i>.05%</i>
TOTAL PART I CRIMES	16,513	16,246	-1.6%
TOTAL PART II CRIMES	14,078	12,625	-10.3%
CITY-WIDE TOTALS	30,591	28,871	-5.6%